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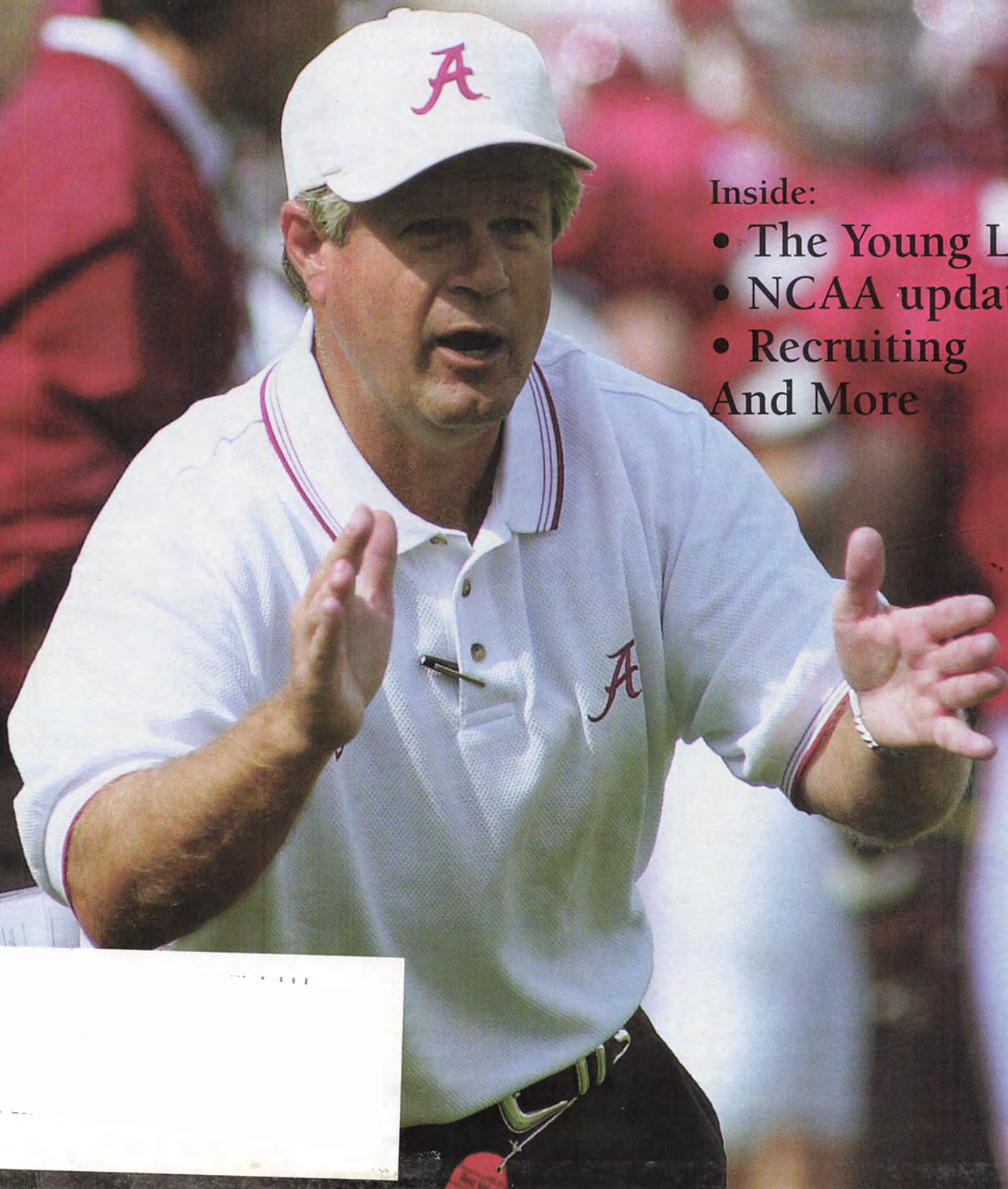
INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

NOVEMBER, 2001

VOLUME 23, NUMBER 9

Inside:

- The Young Line
 - NCAA update
 - Recruiting
- And More



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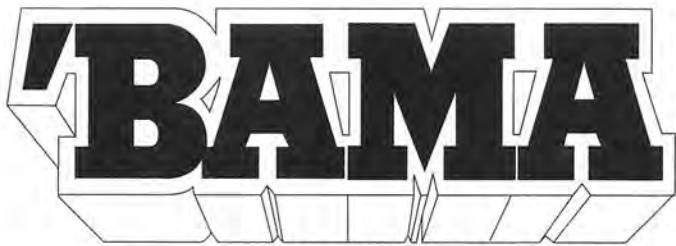
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INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

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The strength of a football team is frequently equal to the quality and quantity of its big men—linemen, linebackers and tight ends. Alabama is looking outside the borders of the state for some of the best of these prep football stars.

by James Edwards

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BAMA SCORECARD

Tough Schedule

Through the first half of this season, statistics compiled by the NCAA show that Alabama has had the 16th most difficult schedule in the nation. Bama's opponents had a combined record of 19-10, which is a winning percentage of .655. California was judged to have the most difficult schedule in the nation as its opponents had a record of 26-2, a winning percentage of .929. Mississippi State was fourth in the nation and among Southeastern Conference teams had the most difficult schedule with its opponents having put together a record of 18-5, 78.3 per cent. Other SEC teams with more difficult schedules than Alabama by this determination were Vanderbilt (13-6, .684, ninth in the nation), Kentucky (19-9, .686, 12th nationally), and Tennessee (14-7, .667, 13th in the nation).

Thirty-Something

Alabama's 37-36 loss to South Carolina on September 29 marked the eighth time in school history the Crimson Tide scored 30 or more points in a game and did not win. The 36 points marked the second-most points ever scored by Alabama in a loss. The record was 38 points in last year's 40-38 homecoming loss to Central Florida. Alabama scored 37 points in the 1967 season opener, playing to a 37-37 tie with Florida State at Legion Field.

Alabama's other losses when scoring 30 or more points were:

October 15, 1983, to Tennessee (41-34); September 8, 1984, to Boston College (38-31); December 7, 1996, in the Southeastern Conference Championship Game to Florida (45-30); October 4, 1997, in overtime to Kentucky (41-34); and January 1, 2000, in the Orange Bowl to Michigan, also in overtime (35-34).

Tiders Selected

Three Alabama seniors have been selected to play in the fourth annual Rotary Gridiron Classic, an all-star football game that features college seniors from around the United States against Team Florida, composed of players at Florida colleges or athletes with other ties to the Sunshine State. The game

will be played January 26 at the Citrus Bowl in Orlando.

Alabama players participating will be tight end Terry Jones and kick return specialist Freddie Milons, both playing for Team USA, and defensive end Aries Monroe, a native of Tallahassee, selected for Team Florida.

High Ranking

The on-line site, InsideHoops.com, has selected the Alabama men's basketball team of Coach Mark Gottfried to finish 13th in the nation. The poll has Duke number one. Other SEC schools ranked include Kentucky number two, Florida third, and Tennessee ninth.

Athlon Publications has picked Alabama to finish 28th in the nation. The magazine's pre-season poll has Kentucky number one. Other SEC schools ranked include Florida fourth, Tennessee 18th, Auburn 34th, and Ole Miss 40th.

Look for *Basketball News* to have Alabama ranked 22nd.

Martin Signed

It may be that not many people have heard of the National Basketball Development League. It has been formed as something of an NBA minor league, with quite a number of Southern teams, including one in Mobile and one in Huntsville. The league has allocated two players to each of the charter teams, and most of those teams went for "local." One of the two players allocated to the Huntsville squad is former Alabama shooting guard Terrance "Doc" Martin.

Top College Woman

Alabama gymnast Andree Pickens is known as one of the top college athletes in the nation and a national magazine has named her one of America's Top College Women.

Pickens, who has won an individual NCAA Championship, nine All-America citations, and handfuls of conference awards during the first three years of her career, was named one of five honorable mentions in *Glamour* magazine's Top Ten College Women competition.

"Andree is a phenomenal young woman

and it is wonderful to see her honored in this way," Tide Coach Sarah Patterson said. "The young women chosen by *Glamour* are leading truly awesome lives. Andree was one of only two athletes among the 15 honorees, and while her athletic accomplishments are impressive, I think she was chosen as much for her positive impact in the community as anything else."

Pickens, a native of Houston, Texas, was selected from among more than 600 applicants. The final 10 and the five honorable mention honorees were listed in the October 2001 issue.

In addition to winning the NCAA balance beam championship as a freshman, Pickens has twice been named Southeastern Conference Gymnast of the Year and three times been named NCAA Regional Gymnast of the Year.

The senior biology major is also formidable in the classroom, having earned Academic All-SEC honors the past two seasons. She has been inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa, Phi Sigma Pi, and Gamma Beta Phi honor societies.

She serves as president of Alabama's Student-Athlete Advisory Board and is the Crimson Tide's representative to the SEC's advisory board. This past summer she represented Alabama at the NCAA Foundation Leadership Conference.

In addition to her work in the gym and the classroom, Pickens works extensively in the community. She has volunteered at the Special Olympics and the Birmingham-Jefferson County United Way Campaign Kickoff. She spoke to over 10,000 area students at the Bama School Jam. She also volunteers at the DCH Regional Hospital's pediatric unit.

Pickens and her Crimson Tide teammates are training for the 2002 season that will get underway January 11 in Gainesville, Florida, at the Super Six Challenge. Pickens is the defending Super Six Challenge All-Around champion.

NCAA Quest For Gymnasts

When Alabama began gymnastics practice this year it was a given that the team goal would be to make the NCAA Championship

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field for the 20th consecutive year. However, there is a little more motivation this year, the 24th for Bama under Coach Sarah Patterson. For only the third time, Coleman Coliseum will serve as host of the NCAA Gymnastic Championships. The Tide holds the championship attendance record, set in 1996, and two of the Tide's three NCAA Championships have been won in Coleman Coliseum, the 1991 and 1996 titles. The championships will be held April 18-20, 2002.

Player Of The Week

Alabama volleyball player Shelly Adamcik was selected Southeastern Conference Volleyball Player of the Week after leading the Tide to an impressive weekend road sweep over Kentucky and Tennessee.

Adamcik, a junior middle blocker from Southlake, Texas, averaged 2.71 kills, 2.43 digs and 1.57 blocks per game for the Tide. She was also the team's most efficient hitter at .381 and posted back-to-back career high service performances with four aces against Kentucky and five versus Tennessee. Adamcik also became the first Bama player to surpass 300 career block assists.

Alabama Coach Judy Green said, "One thing Shelly has worked on this year is playing at a consistent level in big matches, and she did that. She was outstanding in all phases of her game."

Good Tune-Up

David Kimani is no stranger to first place, and Alabama's junior cross country ace turned in a nice tune-up run at an NCAA Pre-Meet race in Greenville, South Carolina. Kimani finished with a time of 24:06, 25 seconds better than his closest competitor to capture first place in the Black field of the 2001 NCAA Pre-Meet in mid-October. After defending his SEC individual championship in Auburn on October 29, Kimani will lead the Crimson Tide in the NCAA Regional at Birmingham on November 10. The NCAA Championship meet is at Greenville on November 19.

The Alabama men, ranked 21st in the nation, finished 11th in the NCAA Pre-Meet Black Division. Bama's Peter Kiprono finished seventh in 24:45. The meet was split into two divisions, so Alabama didn't run against all of the nation's top teams and runners.

"David ran a controlled race," said Alabama men's cross country coach Joe Walker. "He made a big move at the three mile mark that enabled him to win. However we wish we could have seen him matched up against Boaz Cheboiywo from Eastern Michigan, but unfortunately he was in the other division. David runs very smart races and if he were in the second division then he would have been forced to run differently, but he did what he had to do to win his division."

Kimani was named SEC Male Athlete of the Week for his performance in the NCAA Pre-Meet.

The Bama men have won two of their three meets this year, turning in first place finishes at the Tulane Invitational and at the Auburn Invitational.

The team has rescheduled the Crimson Classic. Originally scheduled for September 15, the meet was cancelled as a result of the terrorist attacks on America. The meet is now scheduled for the morning of November 10 at The University's Harry Pritchett Golf Course.

Century Mark

The soccer team of Coach Don Staley picked up the program's 100th victory with a 2-1 win at Mississippi State this year. The win was also Alabama's first SEC road win since Sept. 24, 1999. Bama has been ranked among the nation's top five scoring teams all year, including being ranked as high as number one in goals per game.

Baseball Camp

Applications are now being accepted for the 2001 Alabama Baseball Christmas Speciality Camp, which will be held December 22-23 at Sewell-Thomas Stadium. In the event of inclement weather, the camp will be held in the Hank Crisp Indoor Facility. The first day of the Christmas Speciality Camp will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 9 p.m. The final day of camp begins at 9 a.m. and will end at 4 p.m. The cost is \$135 for commuters and \$165 for overnight campers. All campers must be in at least the seventh grade to stay overnight.

Campers will receive instruction from Alabama coaches, along with some of the top junior college and high school coaches. Instruction will include fundamental drills, proper practice techniques, goal-setting, game situations and fulfilling potential. Players as young as first grade are accepted. The camp staff will group players by age and positions for instruction and competition as follows:

A non-refundable \$100.00 deposit is required to register and will be applied toward

the total tuition. If unable to attend that session, this deposit can be applied to a later camp date. Full tuition may be paid in advance. For complete information call 205/348-2427 or contact Coach Jim Gatewood (jgatewood@ia.ua.edu).

Baseball Tickets

Season ticket order forms were mailed from the Alabama Athletic Ticket Office on October 16 for renewals for current season ticket holders. The deadline to return those renewal forms is November 9. Ticket prices remain the same as for the 2001 season. Anyone interested in purchasing season tickets for the upcoming 2002 baseball season may do so by requesting a season ticket application through the Athletic Ticket Office, (205) 348-2262.

Softball Clinic

Alabama softball has moved up one holiday. The Alabama softball team has formerly held a Christmas Clinic. This year the Tide will have a Thanksgiving Holiday Clinic on Saturday and Sunday, November 24-25. There will be five sessions that will cover pitchers and catchers, hitting, and defense. There are sessions for all ages.

The cost by pre-registration for one session is \$50, two sessions is \$90 and all three sessions is \$125. Walk-up price for one session is \$60, two sessions is \$100 and all three sessions is \$130. For more information contact Assistant Coach Vann Stuedeman at (205) 348-4400.

New Vaulters

For the first time in Alabama history, the Crimson Tide women's track and field team will sport a pole vaulter. Actually a pair of pole vaulters. While there's been a track and field program at Alabama for many years, pole vaulting has only been an NCAA event for the women since 1998. Sarah Soule, from Pensacola, Florida, and Lauren White, from Longwood, Florida, will pioneer the event for Coach Sandy Fowler's squad. Fowler is in her fifth season with the Crimson Tide.

2001 Alabama Football Schedule and Results

Date	Opponent	Site	*Time (TV)/Result
Sept. 1	UCLA	Tuscaloosa	17-20
Sept. 8	Vanderbilt	Nashville	12-9
Sept. 22	Arkansas	Tuscaloosa	31-10
Sept. 29	South Carolina	Columbia	36-37
Oct. 6	Texas-El Paso	Birmingham	56-7
Oct. 13	Mississippi	Oxford	24-27
Oct. 20	Tennessee	Tuscaloosa	24-35
Nov. 3	LSU	Tuscaloosa (HC)	TBA
Nov. 10	Mississippi State	Tuscaloosa	TBA
Nov. 17	Auburn	Auburn	TBA
Nov. 29	Southern Miss	Birmingham	6:00 (ESPN2)
Southeastern Conference Championship Game			
Dec. 8	TBA	Atlanta	7:00 (CBS)

*Time Central, but time and television coverage are subject to change.

He's In For Long Haul At Bama

by J.E. Lisby

Tide's head coach refutes rumors that he might leave

Given the flood of bad news that Alabama football fans have had to absorb in recent months, it was probably inevitable. New Head Coach Dennis Franchione begins to put his stamp on the team, returning discipline and direction to the program, while at the same time putting up offensive numbers not seen in Tuscaloosa for years. But instead of taking comfort in the fact that Alabama is in good hands, rumors that Franchione might leave Alabama cause new concern.

Notre Dame is looking for a coach. Joe Paterno should be retiring soon. And what about the Longhorns or the Aggies? Wouldn't Coach Fran prefer to return to the familiar environs of Texas, rather than deal with Alabama and its ongoing problems?

Franchione understands the buffeting that Tide fans have endured, so he chose to address the issue head on. "I came to Alabama for the long haul," he said in a recent interview with *'BAMA*. "I came to rebuild this program and to carve my niche here. There are so many rumors; where they start, I don't know. Over the last few years if I had talked to all the people who were said to be talking to me, I wouldn't have had time to recruit or coach. I turned 50 in March. I don't know if it's possible, but I came here with the thought that this would be my last job."

The words echo Franchione's comments last December when he was first introduced as Bama's coach.

Just ahead is The University's date with the NCAA Infractions Committee. Franchione said, "I've heard the various scenarios, and no, I'm not worried. I knew that there were challenges when I took the job, and I was willing to accept them. I'm not unhappy with anything. I did my research."

Still, some have suggested penalties could be so harsh as to prompt Franchione and his staff to go elsewhere. "Even assuming



Dennis Franchione

the worst, I don't think anything would change to make me think about leaving," Franchione said. "I knew there were problems to deal with. But I also knew from Dr. Sorensen (University President Andrew Sorensen) and Coach Moore (Alabama Athletics Director Mal Moore) that we would deal with it. I believed in The University. I believed in this football program. I believed that we could get through it. And I still believe that.

"Right now I feel like this is playing out about like I thought it would. I believe more today than I did before that we'll get through this. I thought this out before I came. I knew I would be here at a crossroads for Alabama football. And I'm ready."

The Alabama faithful, who in the last couple of decades seemed unwilling to accept any outsider, have embraced Franchione. Bama's coach said, "I knew I wasn't from the family, but through talking to Coach Moore I felt that with the timing I could be accepted here. And I believe I have been. This is not my first trip to the South. I've lived and coached in a lot of different areas. What makes for a degree of happiness for me and my family is people. Friends. Supporters. Honesty. Alabama has been very welcoming to me, and I like to think I have been with them.

"I'm not from here, but I got here as quick as I could."

Franchione has been successful at every

stop in his head-coaching career, turning around programs at four different schools. But some use that resume against him, offering it as evidence that Franchione would likely listen if another major school came calling. Franchione can explain his previous moves. "The one thing that made me decide to leave Texas Christian was when we went 10-1 and couldn't get into the Bowl Championship Series," he said. "I could have stayed at TCU forever. I liked it there. I loved the people and Fort Worth. But the one thing I wanted to do was to coach someplace where I could win a national championship. We competed for them at Pittsburg State, and I wanted to be able to do that on this level."

There is another log on the rumor fire. Franchione is Italian-American. And Notre Dame has won a few national championships of its own. Franchione said, "Anybody who has done research on me knows that I had a buyout in my contract at TCU that gave me a free walk to Notre Dame. But I don't have that now. I didn't ask for any exemptions. To me an Alabama and a Notre Dame are equal. Alabama is a national name, a national power. I didn't go to Catholic school, and I've never thought of my heritage as having anything to do with where I coached. My goal was to coach where I could win a national championship. And there's no program in America that provides that opportunity like Alabama."

Last year Alabama went 3-8 and ranked 100th in the nation in total offense. The problems won't be solved overnight. "I think most of the fans understand there is some work that needs to be done here," Franchione said. "They don't like the taste of defeat any better than I do. But they are astute enough to see which direction the team is headed."

Those problems, coupled with the likelihood of NCAA sanctions, make the task seem especially arduous. "I've never been afraid of a challenge," Franchione said. "I've taken over far worse situations than this one and dealt with them. I want the fans to be as passionate and supportive and interested as they've always been—and also maybe a little understanding that we've got some work to do. Depending on what happens, there could be some ups and downs."

Finally, Some News May Be Good

by Kirk McNair

End to long investigation into football drawing near

While many media outlets attempting to predict and end result for Alabama football, in some respects, things seem to be going well for The University in the NCAA investigation. Best of all is that an end appears near.

In late October The University was to have made its response to the NCAA's Letter of Official Inquiry. Alabama has been told it will be on the November 17 docket of the Infractions Committee, hearing the case on the day of the Alabama-Auburn football game in Indianapolis. University President Dr. Andrew Sorensen and Athletics Director Mal Moore, as well as members of the Alabama defense team, will miss the football game to make Alabama's case before the committee.

Although he and his staff were not involved in the allegations, Football Coach Dennis Franchione would ordinarily be required to attend. Because of his coaching duties that day, Franchione will make his presentation by videotape. There is no doubt that Franchione would make a compelling in-person witness for his football team, but the Infractions Committee is not likely to give his recorded message any attention. It will be a mere formality. The committee is concerned with the institution, not individuals.

Moore, who made the announcement that Alabama had been accepted for the November date, said, "It is what we wanted. We made every effort to be prepared and to have our response ready. This gives us the opportunity to get the sanctions before the recruiting season. It doesn't mean that we will, but we certainly have a chance now."

The NCAA's Letter of Official Inquiry was received the first week of September, following Alabama's season-opening loss to UCLA. At that time, it was assumed that The University would miss out on the November docket. There never seemed to be any doubt that The University would be able to make its response in time to make the November docket. However, most expected that two former assistant coaches with allegations against them might not be able to make such a hurried response. Former assistants Ronnie Cottrell and Ivy Williams, both named in the letter, must appear at the same time as The University. And lawyers for the respective coaches had indicated they would need more time to formulate their responses.

But Moore said, "I do appreciate the law firms that are representing our (former) coaches and the effort that they have put forward to do this," Moore said. "I think the NCAA is comfortable that they will be ready."

Prior to its appearance before the Infractions Committee, Alabama will have a pre-hearing with the Enforcement Staff, which is a meeting to ascertain that the NCAA and The University are in agreement on the allegations (which is not to say they are in agreement on the correctness of those charges, just that they have been made). This is not a deal-making meeting. The Enforcement Staff cannot speak for the Infractions Committee. The pre-hearing is to formulate a case summary for the Infractions Committee. The case summary condenses all the reports made during the investigation. Making the November docket has a practical advantage. Since news of the NCAA's investigation first surfaced over a year ago, recruiters for some opposing schools have taken full advantage, bombarding high school athletes with their "inside information" about the supposed outcome of the investigation.

The charges and innuendo badly damaged last season's recruiting efforts, but Alabama officials are hopeful that won't happen again. "I think the timing will help everybody," Moore said. "It's important for these coaches to know where they stand. It's important for the athletes who may be interested in Alabama to know the situation. We'll have the facts. Other people won't be telling them what could happen. Our coaches will have all the facts."

Even if Alabama does not receive a final disposition before the February 6, 2001, signing date, opposing recruiters can't be sure of that. Although there are no guarantees in the oftentimes dirty business of recruiting, it's reasonable to expect that most opposing coaches would not want to be caught in a lie too close to signing day in the event penalties did not match predictions.

Had Bama not been put on the November docket, the next possible hearing date would have been after the February 6 football signing date. And although mention has been made of the possibility of new evidence causing the Enforcement Staff to re-open the case and further extend the already seemingly interminable investigation, that would seem to be a remote possibility.

It has been widely reported, though without attribution to any named University official, that Alabama is accepting many of the accusations brought by the NCAA, while disputing others. As has been pointed out, the best part of the letter was what was not in it: no charge of "lack of institutional

control" or even a "failure to monitor" accusation.

In contrast to how other schools have handled the process, Alabama moved quickly to release a copy (edited at the request of the NCAA to remove identification of individuals) of the accusations to the public. In the state of Alabama that forthrightness was particularly notable because Auburn went to court to prevent revealing the contents of its most recent letter of inquiry and has never shared the charges with the public.

The University's response to the letter, including any self-imposed sanction, is not likely to be made public for sometime. "Those are decisions that we'll make as we go down the road the next couple of weeks," Moore said. "We'll make our decisions then. How we respond will be said at due time, and when we think is best."

The letter cited 16 allegations, 11 of them deemed major infractions. There have been published reports that Alabama will dispute some of the allegations.

Since the charges were not as serious as many had expected, it's possible that Alabama officials have re-evaluated the level of penalties to be expected. Almost no one expects television sanctions to be a consideration. Although technically possible, it has been many years since the NCAA imposed a television ban, in part because so much of intercollegiate athletics is tied to television revenue, in part because a television ban punishes the innocent. In one of Auburn's many NCAA prohibition periods, the Tigers were prohibited from being on television. As a result, the Alabama-Auburn game that year was telecast on closed circuit to Bryant-Denny Stadium. An irony is that The University had a nice payday from that telecast and by NCAA edict Alabama could not have shared the money with Auburn even if Alabama had wanted to.

Although it may be a moot point for this year's team, there is also a belief among some observers that the charges do not rise to a level that would require a bowl ban. Even if a bowl ban were in the offing, a decision would have to be made as to when to take it. Generally, a team would like to have that over with immediately so as not to affect upcoming recruiting. However, if a team is not eligible for a bowl game (such as Kentucky, which will also be appearing before the Infractions Committee in November), some would view a bowl ban as little or no penalty.

That is not true. For one thing, a Southeastern Conference team banned from bowl consideration is also denied its share of the revenue from SEC teams playing in bowl games. Additionally, as long as a team is in bowl contention, there is motivation for the players. A self-imposed bowl ban for this year could affect that motivation in remain-

ing games. A bowl ban for a future year, in addition to affecting recruiting, could result in upcoming seniors electing to leave the team, either for a chance at professional football or for another NCAA school. (Seniors on a team not eligible for bowl participation may transfer without having to sit out a year.)

The greatest damage to an athletics program from the Infractions Committee comes in the form of scholarship penalties. Most punishing is a reduction of initial and/or overall scholarships. Additionally, a school can be forced to recruit with few coaches off campus and can be prohibited from having the 56 allowable official visits from prospects or even reducing the number of telephone calls its coaches can make to prospects.

It is in the area of scholarship reductions where there has been the greatest media speculation. A difficulty in attempting to predict penalties is the capriciousness of the Infractions Committee. Consistency has not been one of its strong points.

There is much to consider when contemplating self-imposed penalties, which have become a primary sacrament performed by those schools genuflecting before the Infractions Committee.

Alabama will be on the docket with Kentucky, which is reportedly prepared to

capitulate, admitting 100 per cent guilt in its football program and throwing itself on the mercy of the committee. Although the Kentucky situation should not affect the committee's judgment towards Alabama, it is prudent to expect human failings from the members of that committee.

It is difficult to determine the degree of penalties to self-impose. As has often been pointed out, Alabama is prepared to admit guilt in some areas. (After all, it was Alabama, not the NCAA investigators, who discovered most of the alleged improprieties, and some of those allegations have been found by The University to have occurred.) It has also been pointed out that the Infractions Committee is not likely to leave itself out of the penalty phase. No matter what Alabama offers as self-imposed punishment, it is expected that the committee will clear its throat and say, "Well, yes, but we think you also need to..."

If Alabama elects to self-impose a reduction in scholarships, it is likely to want the penalty to be most severe early. For instance, if Alabama elected to self-impose 15 initial scholarships over three years, it might seek to lose seven scholarships in the first year (February, 2002), five in the second and three in the third. A complicating factor is the determination of the base from which scholarships are reduced, frequently not the 25 a school is permitted to sign each

year. For instance, as an example more simple than the Infractions Committee would use, if Alabama had only 22 seniors, the NCAA might say that Alabama was penalized seven scholarships, meaning only 15 could be signed.

Alabama reportedly began taking self-punishment steps in mid-October, to the extent that disassociating a booster can be called self-punishment. As expected, The University gave the NCAA one thing it wanted, which was Memphis businessman Logan Young being barred from the program. Published reports said two other unnamed boosters were also disassociated. Disassociation ordinarily is not permanent, usually lasting for the length of time penalties are imposed. A booster who has been disassociated from a university may not make financial contributions to the program and may not have any special benefits, although he can attend games through other channels.

Although it is impossible to make an agreement on penalties prior to the hearing before the Infractions Committee, it is not unreasonable to expect that Alabama's faculty chairman of athletics, Gene Marsh, couldn't have a very good idea of what to offer. After all, he is a member of that committee.

Marsh will not sit on the committee when Alabama's case is heard. One disturbing rumor is that he has elected to not sit on Alabama's side of the table, either, feeling that to do so might make the members of the Infractions Committee uncomfortable. Hopefully, as an employee of The University, Marsh will do what is best for Alabama regardless of any discomfort to the committee.

In addition to Marsh, Alabama's legal team is made up of University Attorney Stan Murphy, Associate Athletics Director for Compliance Marie Robbins, and Rich Hilliard, a former NCAA investigator who now works as an NCAA specialist for the legal team of Ice Miller in Indianapolis.

The NCAA investigation has brought forth dozens of rumors, most detrimental to The University. One of the more interesting is one that could prove devastating to The University. That has anti-Alabama interests convincing Lynn Lang, the former high school coach of Albert Means in Memphis, to admit to wrongdoing that involves Alabama boosters and/or coaches as part of a plea bargain in criminal proceedings against Lang.

While such a scenario would reek of dirty tricks, the lead NCAA investigator has proved unable to discern between credible and non-credible witnesses and has dutifully bought into the stories of a menagerie of low-lives. The danger is that the case against Alabama would be re-opened, essentially ending The University's chance to appear on the November docket, destroying yet another recruiting season, and adding to the rumors and speculation of penalties against Alabama.

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Primary Concern Is Secondary

by Kirk McNair

Defending against modern passing game a challenge for players and coaches

Alabama football fans don't expect much from their cornerbacks. Like football fans everywhere, Tide fans just want the cornerbacks to play up tight enough on the wide receivers so the receivers don't continue to catch all those little dink passes in front of the cornerbacks. And, of course, don't let the receiver get behind the cornerbacks for the big gainer. Oh, yeah, and make sure tackles in the open field.

Those are not just the hopes of Alabama fans. Those are also the goals of Crimson Tide players and coaches. Have Alabama's cornerbacks achieved these goals? No.

There have been terrible lapses, most notably at South Carolina and Mississippi, where the Bama offense played well enough to win for most of the game, but where double-digit leads were lost in the second half.

In the modern era of college football, it takes more than just "want to," and it takes more than just knowing what to do. Indeed, sometimes the defender can know what to do and have the skill to do it, and still the pass is completed. That's because of how sophisticated passing offenses have become and how skilled passers and receivers are.

And when a pass is completed, more often than not it is a defensive back who is in the area and given the blame.

Chris Thurmond, who coaches Alabama's cornerbacks, said, "The cornerback and the quarterback are the two most visible guys on the field. People are going to see them. We coach them to have a tough guy mentality. If they make a mistake, everyone is going to realize it. But the thing is, so much is involved in defense on a pass play. Sometimes the guy (cornerback who appears to have

made a mistake) is labeled correctly, but sometimes that label is incorrect."

That is because pass defense involves every defender. Everyone knows that the best pass defense is the opposing quarterback being sacked. And sometime it's a matter of winning the battle of wits.

"We're trying to scheme them and they're trying to scheme us," said Ron Case, who coaches Bama safeties. "The schemes are the thing. Unless you are just so dominant that you don't have to move, they are going to get you. I think we've got a pretty good front, but we've got to move it, and we do."

Alabama Head Coach Dennis Franchione divides secondary coaching duties using two assistants, Thurmond for the cornerbacks and Case for the safeties.

Thurmond said, "Before I started coaching with Fran I coached the entire secondary. Fran has always had two secondary coaches, at least for the last 10 years or so. That's becoming a trend. They do it in the NFL and you're starting to see more of it in colleges. When I started coaching there was a lot of eight-man front, so the strong safety would be with the linebackers and I'd coach the three deep backs. Now we have one guy coaching cornerbacks and one coaching safeties.

"It's an advantage to just coach the corners because we are so much more pass-oriented at corner and emphasize more schemes and run support with safeties. That means when I'm working with the corners on man coverage on fade routes, for instance, it doesn't mean the safeties are standing around. They are being coached in run fits, for instance.

"When you have two coaches, you can spend more time on the little things, the technique things, the details and the adjustments."

Case, who has coached defensive backs for most of his 31-year career, said, "This is the first time I've been in a situation where we had two coaches for the secondary. I can assure you when I was coaching the entire secondary—and that was sometimes five with the nickel package or six with the dime—it was more than a full-time job. For one thing, cornerback and safety are two differ-

Chris Thurmond, a veteran secondary coach who has been with Dennis Franchione for four years, coaches Alabama's cornerbacks. When a cornerback makes a mistake, almost everyone knows it.

University of Alabama Photo by Kent Gidley



ent positions. And then the nickel and dime are also different. When I was coaching it all I thought I should get two salaries."

Case said a cornerback has to have more skill and a safety has to be more aware of schemes. "There is a lot of alignment work with the safeties," he said. "It's a lot easier to learn at cornerback, but it's harder to play corner; it takes more skill than it takes to play safety."

Case noted, "Safeties make more tackles now than they did a few years ago, but you still don't want your safety being your leading tackler. The linebackers should get the most, and then the safeties. You've got to have guys at safety who are good tacklers. He saves big plays from being touchdowns. Missed tackles and busted assignments in the secondary show up on the scoreboard."

In the past 30 or so years, the rules of college football have evolved to help the offense in general and the passing game in particular. As a result, most teams have changed the emphasis of their offenses.

Case said, "The game has evolved into a lot more passing game. Before everyone was in close formation and running the ball and mixing in the pass. Now everyone spreads you out. It used to be two wide receivers,

two running backs and a tight end. Now there are a lot more four-wides and so forth."

He added, "Everyone is trying to get about 50-50 ratio run to pass, except at a few places, like Florida, where they are throwing it downfield and just mixing in a little run."

Thurmond said, "In the old days, you could play the 'bend but don't break defense' because you figured they couldn't complete five or six passes in a row. Eventually they would stop themselves. But now a guy might complete 15 in a row."

He said, "Bill Parcells (the former NFL head coach) was the first one to point out that the most overrated statistic in football is passing yardage. When I started coaching if we gave up 150 yards passing that was just awful. But then it was unusual for a team to throw 20 passes in a game. Now a team may throw 40 passes, and completions go up. Passing yardage shrinks the field. The statistic that matters is touchdown passes."

Thurmond added, "Another change is that you used to always be going up against little fast receivers, and so you had little fast cornerbacks to cover them. Now they have gone to the bigger wide receivers and they go for the jump ball."

Case added, "Everyone is trying to find tall

receivers and get a mismatch. Now you've got to find taller defensive backs to match up. If a defensive back is short, he'd better be really fast to make up for the height differential. People are throwing a lot of jump balls now."

Meanwhile, Thurmond said, "Every defense is looking for that great outside pass rusher and for that great one-on-one cornerback who doesn't have to worry about disguise. He can just lock on someone and cover him."

The outside pass rusher is a main component of the first line of pass defense, that being the front seven. Pass defense, Case said, "boils down to how good up front you are. That's what helps the defensive backs. You can have some inadequacies in the secondary if you are good with the front seven. One reason we had such a good pass defense at (North) Carolina was because we were so good up front. We were good, not great, in the secondary. It didn't have anything to do with coaching or schemes."

Still, Thurmond said, "The way we coach defense is that the secondary doesn't worry about what's going on with the pass rush. We play pass defense assuming the front won't get to the quarterback. And Stan (Eggen, Bama's defensive line coach) coach-



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es his guys assuming that our cornerback is going to fall down, and his defensive linemen have to get to the quarterback before he can pass it."

Schemes and disguises and adjustments take up most of the time for defensive backfield players and coaches.

Thurmond points out that "The huddle, both on offense and defense, is almost obsolete now." That is because of the adjustments that are made on both sides. When the offense comes to the line, the defense moves. Then the quarterback makes any adjustment he feels necessary. And then the defense usually gets the last move. That's one reason that more teams are going to a no-huddle offense, something once seen only in two-minute drill situations.

Thurmond said, "Those quarterbacks who do a lot of film study are trying to find out what the defensive men do on their second steps. We'll give them a first step read and when he makes his adjustment we're going to make a second step. That's the one we can't let him know."

Case said, "You've got to be able to disguise what you are doing. The quarterbacks are taught to look at the safeties. If he sees two high safeties, that tells him one thing. If he sees one safety, that tells him another. And when they start spreading you out, it makes it more difficult to disguise what you are doing."

Almost everyone is aware of the basics of pass defense. Case pointed out that when he was at North Carolina the defensive front was so good that the secondary would play



Ron Case coaches the Crimson Tide safeties. He has been training defensive backs most of his 31 years in football coaching. Barry Fikes Photo

"bump and run" 80 per cent of the time. That technique has the defensive backs tight on the wide receivers and making contact with them within two yards of the line of scrimmage. "We were trying to mess up the timing and make the quarterback hesitate and maybe get to him," Case said. "We don't want the receiver to get vertical speed downfield. It's like basketball on grass with a hand check that makes the receiver re-start."

"The way the offense reads coverages, if

you play tight they are going to take it over the top and if you play soft they are going to throw short," Thurmond said. "We've got to walk and move and try to disguise what we are doing. That's the game now."

The basic alignments of secondary play are man-to-man and zone. But zone can become man and some defensive backs can be in man while others are in zone. Case said, "It's easier to coach man-to-man defense, because it's a matter of 'You take this guy, you take this one, and so on.' The other (zone) takes a lot of coaching, training, time, and you have to have smart safeties for your coverage schemes."

He added, "One thing that determines whether you play man or zone is personnel, and how your personnel match up with the opponent. You don't want to let them get a mismatch. And the offense will know where the mismatch is. If they have four wide receivers, you don't want to end up with a linebacker on a wide receiver and a cornerback on the tight end, because that's definitely a mismatch. You want skill on skill. If we don't get it right, the offense gets the advantage."

"Every offense is looking for one-on-one coverage," Thurmond said. "They think they can win the one-on-one battle because they know where they are going and because quarterbacks are so skilled now they can put the ball where only the receiver can get it, even if it means throwing something that looks like an under-throw. We've got to outnumber the run, which means we'll have one-on-one coverage, and we've got to win that one-on-one battle."

Thurmond said, "Effective pass defense is a combination of schemes and personnel. The game is more of a coaches' game now than it was when the quarterback called all the plays and there weren't any four- and five-wide sets and empty backfields. Now you can't predict the formation even off personnel groups. Now a team may put a wide receiver at a running back spot. If you don't know that, you're going to get beat. Our defensive backs have to know what spots the offense has people in, and they also have to know who those people are." Additionally, he said, the calls are less predictable. It's no longer sure that a team backed up on its goalline is not going to go for the bomb.

Thurmond said, "Anyone can fix blame. What we've got to do is fix problems. If they are running, we have to out-number the run. If we're getting out-matched in the secondary, we've got to get help. We have to be problem-solvers. And we have to find the answers and make the adjustments without letting the offense know how we're doing it."

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The Young Line:

Redshirt Freshmen Are Key

by J.E. Lisby

Offensive front becomes strength, not liability

Jim Bob Helduser was excited about the opportunity to coach football at Alabama. A long-time assistant and friend of Dennis Franchione, Helduser said he couldn't wait to get to Tuscaloosa and begin working to return the Tide to national prominence. When a new staff takes over a team coming off a 3-8 record, it expects problems. But Helduser likely never expected that his offensive line would consist of five new starters this season. And he surely would not have dreamed that three of them would be freshmen.

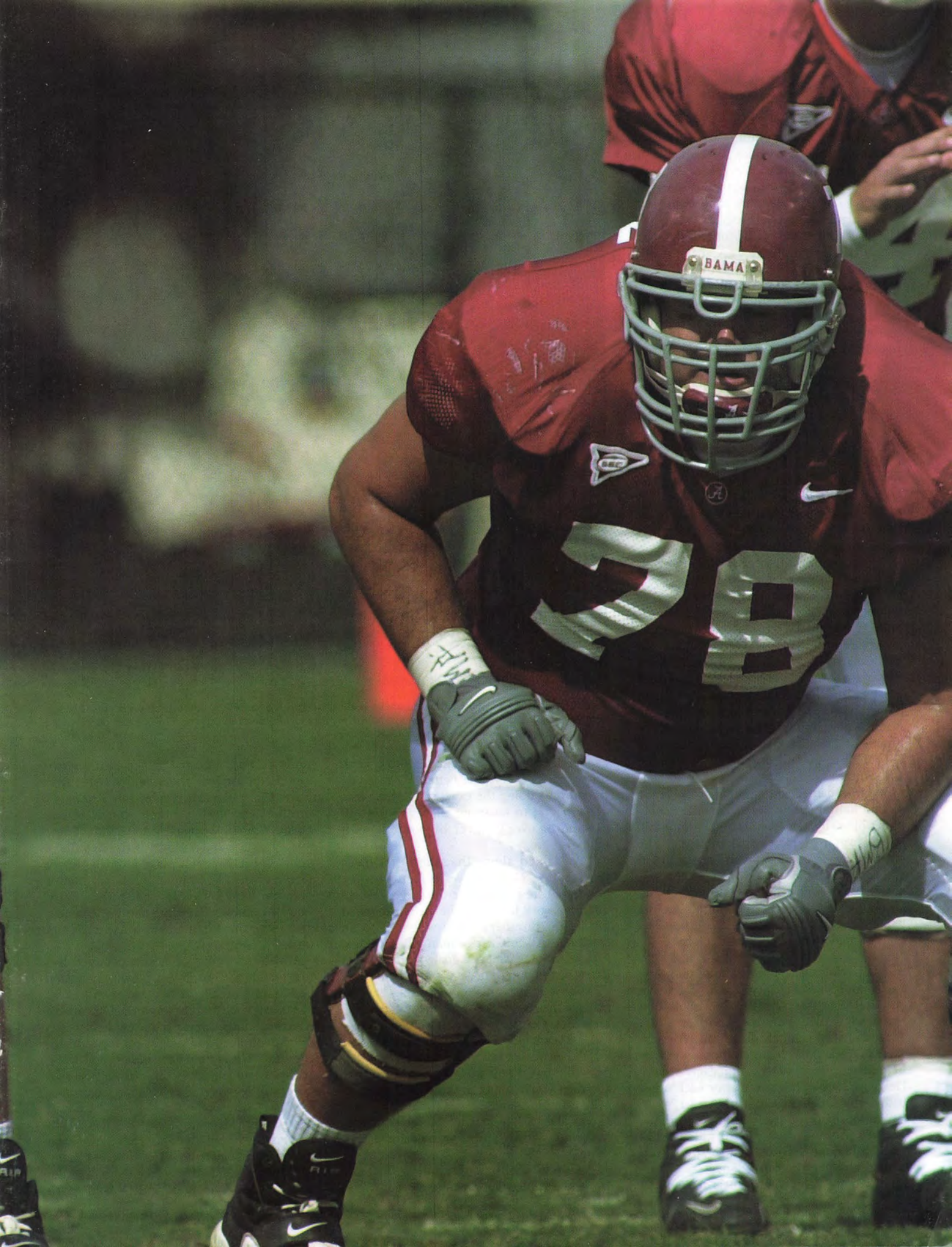
"If I had known that then, I suppose I would have had a high degree of uncertainty about what kind of line we could have put together," Helduser said. "But I would have enjoyed the challenge. As a staff we've never been in a position where we had talented enough athletes who were also that young at this stage in their careers. That's a testament to those guy's physical abilities. They've done a wonderful job in learning what to do."

Many years ago, when freshmen were not eligible for varsity play, famed Georgia Tech Coach Bobby Dodd made the connection that for every sophomore in the lineup, he expected to lose one game. But Franchione has his own axiom. The best players play. And Wesley Britt, Justin Smiley and Evan Mathis have been too good to keep off the field. "We never looked at it as being redshirt freshmen," said Mathis, the starter at strongside tackle. "Ever since we got on campus we've been determined to not let age be a factor. Just because we're redshirt freshmen we're not going to live down to peoples' expectations that we're not supposed to be good."

Redshirt freshmen Wesley Britt (70) at quickside tackle and Justin Smiley (78) at quickside guard have been starters since the beginning of the season for the Crimson Tide.

Barry Fikes Photo





In August Tide coaches were frank in acknowledging that a young, inexperienced offensive line was a major concern. But in recent weeks the unit has exceeded expectations, helping Alabama put up impressive offensive numbers. "At this point in the season 'surprised' isn't the correct word," Helduser said. "Had we performed this well early in the year against UCLA, then I would have been surprised, because that wouldn't have been long enough for them to get trained. But we're starting to have the expectation that they play well every week, not just from me as the coach but from them as players, too. They understand the system and are comfortable enough that they have the expectation to play well."

Starting quickside guard Justin Smiley said, "Chemistry is very important. We have five new starters on the offensive line. To become a cohesive unit is important. We've got time to get better, but we have jelled pretty quick. We're gaining confidence. Going into games now I know the offensive line has each other's back. Sometimes I'm surprised a little bit at how well we're playing, but we're going to continue to get better."

Though young, all three earned their way onto the field, feverishly lifting weights and going full-tilt at practice to climb ahead of older players on the depth chart. "Starting is nothing that's given to you," quickside tackle Wesley Britt said. "You've got to earn it. You earn it in the off season, not just on Saturdays. You've got to go into it with a great attitude, remembering all the sweat, blood and tears that everybody has put into it in the past. You've got to equal that. Once I made first team, I knew I couldn't let up at all. I had to go full speed in practice the whole time."

Britt was named starter at quick tackle the second half of spring practice, while Smiley didn't officially achieve that status until fall. When junior Marico Portis moved to the strong side, it opened up the quick guard slot for "Big Smiles." Mathis began the season listed second team at both center and strong tackle, but since the South Carolina game the former wrestling champion has put a stranglehold on the starting job.

Arriving on campus at the same time and sharing duty on the offensive line, it was probably inevitable that the trio would become good friends. "Because they're such close-knit friends, there is a real bond between those guys that helps them want success for each other," Helduser said. "They want it for each other badly, which makes them work harder."

Workout partners in the weight room, the linemen pal around together off the field as well. But competition within the group helped produce their early success. Mathis said, "Competition is what fuels society and



Evan Mathis, (51) a redshirt freshman who had been expected to be Alabama's back-up center this season, has moved into the starting line-up at strongside tackle, beating out the Tide's most experienced returning offensive lineman, Dante Ellington.
Barry Fikes Photo

especially a football team. Pushing each other makes everything better. We're going to continue doing the exact same thing that got us here, to keep our place. You're still competing. We'll never be content with where we are."

"We talked about that the other day," Smiley said. "Now that we're starting, we've got to set new goals for ourselves. We're going to work harder in the weight room to get better numbers. Now we want to be freshman All-SEC, freshman All-America. Every time you achieve a goal you have to set a new one higher to make yourself better."

And as Britt points out, working hard to achieve their goals will only make them better athletes in the long run. "When you're a kid, 16 years old, if somebody just gives you a car then you're not going to treat it well," he said. "But if you work hard to earn that car, then you're going to do what it takes to keep it in top shape, keep it running forever. It was always like that for me growing up. My parents made sure I worked for everything."

Besides a healthy appreciation for hard work, the triplet blockers share other traits.

All come from athletic families. Britt has two football-playing brothers, and a sister who starred in volleyball. Smiley has a younger brother who plays football, and a cousin, Dusty Zeigler, who starred at Notre Dame and later for the Buffalo Bills. Besides a younger brother who plays football "better than me when I was in high school," Mathis grew up with a Tide legend in the family. Bob Baumhower, star lineman for Alabama and later the Miami Dolphins, is Evan's uncle.

Athletic versatility is another common feature among the group. Apart from their prep careers in football, all three were successful in other sports. Mathis was a state champion wrestler, competing so intensely that it was difficult to keep his weight up for football. He said, "No matter how much food I ate, I'd burn it off in wrestling. In high school wrestling was my favorite sport even over football." Britt won a state championship of his own throwing the discus, but at 6-8, 285 pounds he was also a commanding presence for his basketball team. "There weren't many people who would try to take the ball to the hoop on me," he said. Smiley wanted to

wrestle, but his high school didn't field a team so he turned to power lifting. "I started working with a Junior Olympic team. You learn power and explosion, and it preps you for football," he said.

A redshirt year spent watching and learning while also working in the weight room to mature physically was another shared experience. Last year's staff expected Mathis to sit out the year, but Smiley and Britt went deep into the season before the final decision was made to hold them out of action. At the time they were disappointed at not playing immediately, but now they see things differently. Smiley said, "Then I was kind of angry, but now I see it as positive. All during recruiting they tell you 'Man, we think you can play.' Then you get up here and it's different. It was disappointing at times, but I see it as a positive now. We had that extra year to learn and grow. I think it was a good year emotionally and physically. All of us hit it hard in the weight room. We made great jumps in the weight room. I didn't have any technique when I came in here, so I definitely needed that year."

And as Mathis points out, all three contributed by helping prepare the squad for game day. "A selfish person would probably take it as negative," he said. "But if you're trying to help the team, then you'll look at it in a positive way. You're the guy that is going against the defense that will play on Saturday. The harder you work against them, the better they'll be able to play."

Though they share many characteristics, the three are unique, both athletically and in person. Helduser said, "Wesley is big and physical, a 'good foot' athlete. Mass is a good attribute for him, and he's got good flexibility for a large-body person. He's got a quiet kind

of tenacity about him. He's the kind of guy that physically wants to dominate you. That trait doesn't necessarily come out like it does in Justin, but I don't think Wes has less of a desire to be physical than Justin. It just doesn't show as much.

"Justin is a hyperactive, physical guy. He's very demonstrative. He's a little better 'foot athlete' than Wesley, but not quite as big. He's got great strength. Athletically he's what you'd like to have at guard."

"Evan is the cerebral guy," Helduser said. "He thinks through everything and is the best foot athlete of the whole bunch. He runs the best of all of them, and is remarkably the strongest of all three. He's a lower body-weight athlete. He's a quiet, cool kind of guy who doesn't get ruffled. He's real focused on what he's got to do."

It's hard to appreciate just how physically imposing Britt is until he is seen on the field in full pads standing head-and-shoulders above other six-foot athletes. Smiley is more compact, but his powerful torso and lower body provide an explosive power that makes him an ideal blocker. And long-time Tide fans note the shared family genes, spotting a clear body-type resemblance between Mathis and his famous uncle.

The players have their own ideas about their respective personalities, observations which hardly differ from Helduser's. "Justin is a bit of the wild man," Britt said. "He goes out there and tries to take somebody's head off every time. He has that mentality. Sometimes he gets wild, but mostly he keeps it in control."

"Smiley is wild on the field, but then he's a very laid back person otherwise," Mathis added.

"I can control my emotions," Britt said. "My parents have always taught me that. I can stay calm in the huddle, but once the ball is snapped I'm going off. I'm putting everything I've got into what's got to be done. I'm going out there every play to take somebody's head off."

Smiley's take on Mathis: "Evan is kind of like the silent genius. He's always scheming—with girls and everything. His play didn't take Wes or me by surprise. We saw him do it in practice. We knew what he was capable of."

By practicing hard and continuing to improve every week, the three friends have changed this year's offensive line from liability to growing strength. But, Helduser said, "They're just babies now, and they've got to prepare every week to have a chance to be good. They've had some success, but we're only talking about half a season and a couple of games where they've played well. Viewed over the course of a four-year career, they've barely chipped the edge of the iceberg. They've got a long way to go. If they don't keep that same focus and preparation, then they're going to backslide."

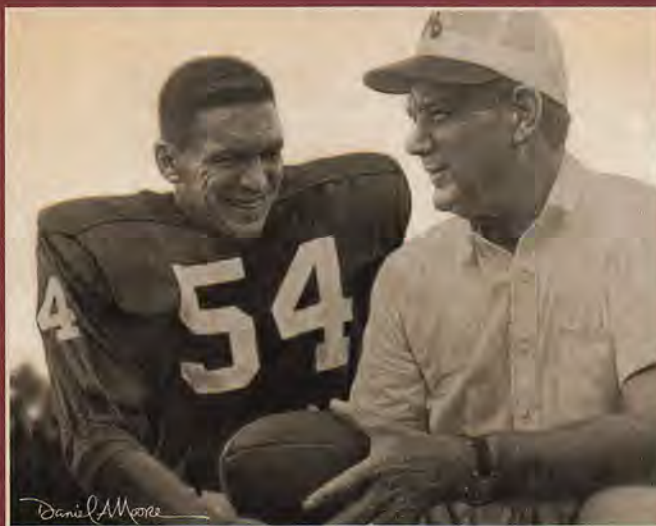
With a "No nicknames, please" attitude toward publicity, the players credit Helduser for much of their early progress. And they're not likely to stop listening now. "We're never going to be satisfied with our level of play," Mathis said. "No matter how good we do. We know we can all get better."

Smiley said, "We talk about our goal every day, and that's to have the best offensive line in the country. Coach Helduser tells us that won't happen just because we say we are. Somebody else has to say it. I want us to be the best offensive line in the country, and I want championship rings."



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by Daniel Moore

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Tide Expects Return To Top Level

by Andrew Varble II

Both men and women of Coach Don Wagner have outstanding performers returning

Foes of Alabama athletics have been known to criticize Bama fans for "living in the past," particularly as regards football. But Alabama makes no apologies for its rich athletics heritage. And the 2001-02 edition of the Crimson Tide swimming and diving teams got a glimpse of the past as they embarked on the upcoming season.

Among the several hundred onlookers gathered in the Alabama Aquatic Center early last month were the current members of the Crimson Tide, taking part in an intrasquad match that has traditionally marked the start of the season. However, that meet wasn't the primary reason for attendance. The event was the dedication of the Don Gambril Olympic Pool. Gambril, on hand with his family, took a good Alabama program to the highest reaches of the collegiate world. Over the course of his 17-year tenure at the helm of the Crimson Tide, he coached some of the world's best athletes and many of them were on hand.

The current crop of Tide athletes got to meet the likes of former world record holder and Tide coach Jonty Skinner, now with USA Swimming, and four-time Olympic gold medalist Jon Olsen. NCAA Champions Glenn Mills and Wayne Chester and a large number of All-America performers also walked the deck again.

And Gambril was also part of the dedication of the Alabama Swimming and Diving Hall of Fame in the Aquatic Center, featuring coaches and performers from past Crimson Tide teams.

All this drove home the goal of this year's squad, which is to return Alabama to the stratosphere of collegiate swimming and to make top-10 finishes at the NCAA Championships the norm, a run at the national title a possibility.

Last year, both the men and women's swimming and diving teams were very young, with both squads about 50 per cent freshmen. This season those rookies have come of age and are being counted on to take Alabama to renewed heights.

Don Wagner is beginning his third season as head coach of both the men's and women's teams. He is assisted by Head

Diving Coach Pat Greenwell, many times the SEC Diving Coach of the Year, and by swimming assistants Laura Ghilik-Micu and Arthur Albiero.

The goal of Alabama's women team this year is a bit different than that of last year's squad. Last year, the goal was to get back to elite status in the Southeastern Conference. That goal attained, this year's goal is to move up the ladder. Returning a majority of the squad that finished in the top 20 nationally for the first time in five years, the current edition of the Crimson Tide is up to the challenge.

Wagner says that if this year's squad can stay healthy, the sky is the limit.

"We are definitely much further ahead at this point than we were a year ago at this time," he said. "This team is expected and is looking to duplicate the success of last year's squad. We definitely have the talent to go far, the experience to take us there, and if we're healthy, the intangibles for a run at the SEC Championship."

Alabama's greatest asset returning for the 2001-02 season is 2001 SEC Freshman of the Year Anne Poleska, the defending SEC 200 breaststroke champion. Poleska was busy over the summer helping the European All-Stars win bronze at the Goodwill Games in Australia, and picking up a silver medal of her own at the World University Games in Japan. Along with the SEC championship, she also finished third in the 200-meter breaststroke at last year's NCAA Championships. She broke five school records, and helped break four of five school relay records.

Also returning this season is redshirt sophomore diver Lane Bassham. Bassham single-handedly led Alabama to a 27th place finish at the 2000 NCAA Championships, earning All-America honors in the process. Wrist surgery before last season held her out, but she is back to full strength this year, and Wagner says that her return is very big for the Tide.

Along with Poleska and Bassham, the Crimson Tide returns eight sophomores, including Catalina Casaru, Lisa Andersson, and Flavia Sugimori. Casaru, a 1996

Olympian for Romania, one of seven swimmers Alabama sent to the NCAA Championships last season, is looking to improve on an outstanding freshman campaign. She is very versatile, capable of contributing in butterfly, freestyle and individual medley. Wagner says that Casaru is much faster and is setting herself up for a good year.

Andersson, also an NCAA participant last year, has looked very impressive in off-season workouts and is expected to stand out this year in the 50- and 100-meter freestyle. Sugimori will again add depth to the Tide's breaststroke lane. Michele King also made the NCAA Championships, swimming in the 100 backstroke and 100 butterfly, but off-season surgery on her shoulder will most likely keep her sidelined for most of this season. Liz McGiffin will compete in the backstroke, while Ann Ross should see significant time in the sprint freestyles and relays.

The junior class is also deep. The most notable of the class is junior Meghan Lynch, the only sophomore Alabama sent to the NCAA Championships last season. She will contribute in both backstroke and butterfly. Other juniors are Renata Miatto in freestyle and individual medley, Kelly Kerr in the backstroke, and Holly McCreless in the breaststroke.

The Tide's other two juniors will support Bassham in diving. Katherine Bortenlanger and Laine Patterson both dove at the 2001 SEC Championships.

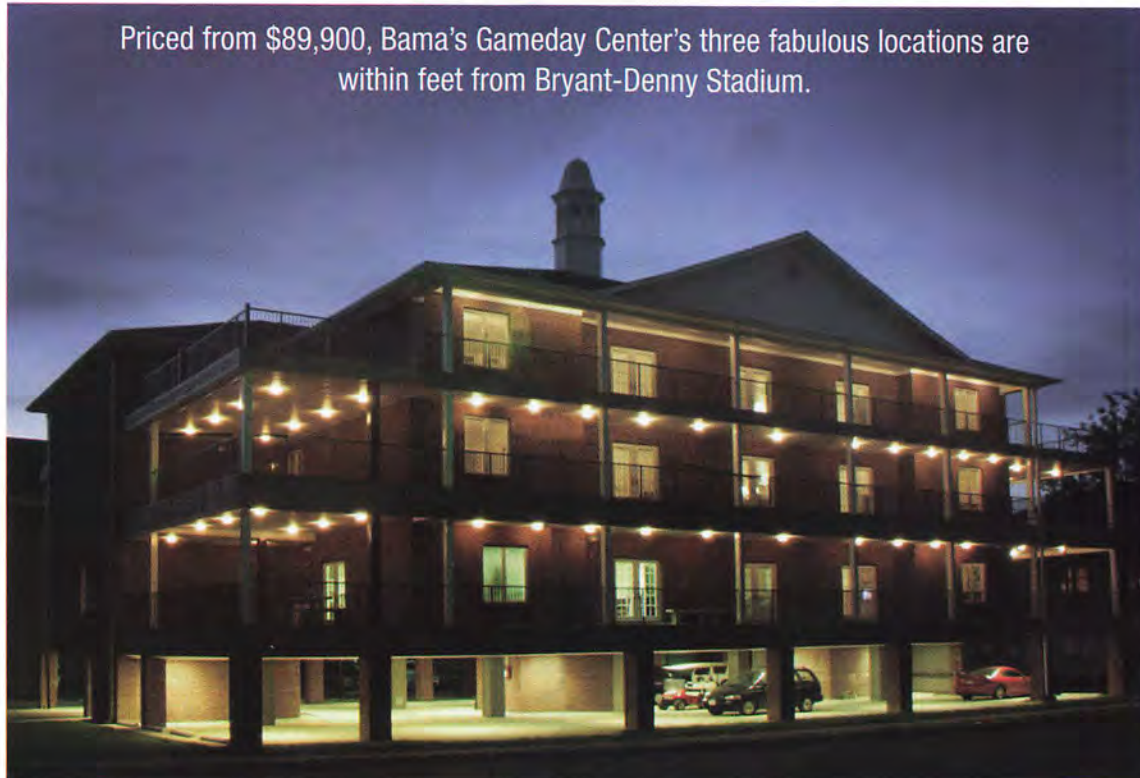
Senior leadership is always an important part to success on any team. Last year, the Tide looked to Kelly Coellner and Emily Donohue for that. This season, Marcy Warriner returns as the one senior who participated at the NCAA Championship meet a year ago. She competed in the 50-meter freestyle and placed 15th in the 100-meter breaststroke. Joining Warriner in the senior class is freestyler Katy Davidson and breaststroker Belinda Green.

The Crimson Tide welcomes two freshmen, Irini Kosta and Miranda Matias. This is a deep contrast to last year's team that saw eight freshmen join the squad. Kosta, the 1994 European Champion in the 100-meter freestyle, is a top-notch sprinter and should

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Alabama's swimming and diving teams should be much-improved this year because of a number of performers who have had previous success. Leaders of the 2001-02 teams will include (left to right) Gherghel Stefan, Anne Poleska, Lane Bassham, and Jordie Proffitt. Barry Fikes Photo

be able to fill the shoes left by Coellner's graduation. Matias should prove to be a force in the diving events this season.

For the men, this season should definitely be an improvement on the last. Wagner has a fresh memory upon which to make that assessment. "Their training and the talent has significantly improved," Wagner said of the men's squad. "They are at the same point the women were at this time last season, and they (the women's squad) finished in the top 20 nationally."

With a bit more experience and a load of talent, this Tide team could be the surprise of the SEC.

Like the women's team, the men's strongest class will be the sophomores. The Tide's lineup is made up of 10 sophomores, five freshmen, two juniors and one senior.

Leading the way will be returning NCAA competitor, Jordie Proffitt. Proffitt, a sophomore, was second at the SEC Championships in the 100 backstroke, setting the school record in that event. He also scored

in the 200 individual medley and butterfly. Wagner said that Proffitt is very confident about his abilities and has seen a big difference in his competitiveness in his off-season training.

Wagner says that along with Proffitt, sophomores Scott Weaver, Michael Pigassou, Ben Worby and James Willcox have all significantly improved from last year. Worby, Willcox and Pigassou will all see duty in the freestyle events, while Weaver will be a mainstay in the backstroke and individual medley. The potential doesn't stop there among the sophomores. Brendan Ashby will see backstroke action while Jeff Smith, Adam Hall and Brad Willard are all looking to make their marks in the freestyle events. Hall could also see action in the breaststroke. Diver Anthony DiGiacco, a transfer from Kansas, will bolster the Tide's already record number of sophomores and give the Tide a boost off the boards.

The number of freshmen is half what it was a year ago, but the outlook for first-year performers is equally bright as it was in

2000. Evan Mueller, Franck Southon, Stefan Gherghel and Chris Flamion are all primed to make a difference for the Tide in the pool. Mueller will see breaststroke and individual medley action while Flamion and Gherghel will both compete in the butterfly events. Southon is perhaps the most versatile of the rookies, showing promise in the freestyle, backstroke and individual medley. Diver Stewart Smith is hoping to make some rookie noise in the diving events.

Having three upperclassmen leaves the Tide a little short in the experience department, but with the talent that they have, it should be enough to overcome. The single senior on the team is Grant Jollands, the Tide's top performer in the 200-meter backstroke and 400 individual medley. Juniors Charles Reeves and Zach Winchester will also be on hand to help guide a young Crimson Tide squad. Reeves is a breaststroke ace while Winchester specializes in butterfly.

All of the Tide freestyle men are sprinters with no distance specialists. Worby and Willcox can swim up to 500.



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Tide Could Add As Many As Four

by Tim Watts

Georgia small forward is first to commit to Alabama

With the Alabama men's basketball front court extremely thin, the Crimson Tide staff of Coach Mark Gottfried spent the summer evaluating and recruiting quality big men throughout the South. With Erwin Dudley and Kenny Walker the only post players on scholarship the Tide hoped to add depth for the future. By the end of the summer evaluation period the Tide coaches had made strong impressions on several highly regarded big men, and Alabama was being mentioned as a possible destination for some of the most talented players in the surrounding states.

The recruiting work appears to have paid off as Georgia native Evan Brock has announced plans to sign with Alabama. Brock, a 6-9 big forward, made an official visit to Tuscaloosa in September and felt right at home. "The guys were real nice, I felt comfortable there," he said. Also factoring into his decision was Alabama's business school. "Academics are important to me and my parents, and I want to major in business," Brock said. "The quality of academics there is excellent."

The week-long early signing period for winter and spring sports begins November 14. It is believed that Alabama could add as many as four new players for the men's basketball program.

Evan grew up around basketball and perhaps his best lessons learned were from his father, Ernie Brock. Ernie, who is 6-10, was a star athlete at Virginia State in the early 1960s. After his collegiate career ended he spent one year in the NBA with the Atlanta Hawks, but perhaps is best remembered for the five years he spent traveling the world with the Harlem Globetrotters.

Last year at Lassiter High School, Brock, who weighs 195, averaged 15 points, 10 rebounds, and four assists per game. During the summer, while playing with the Georgia Jazz, he saw his stock rise in the eyes of college coaches. Brock is a versatile player who uses his height to post up smaller guards and uses his quickness to penetrate when big men come out to guard him on the perimeter. On the defensive end he is capable of guarding either forward position and

with his long arms and quick leaping ability he is a natural shot-blocker. He chose Bama over Clemson, Wake Forest, and Mississippi State.

"I was in the Nike Showcase and the AAU Nationals this summer, and there was a lot of interest after that," he said. "We narrowed my list down to 10 schools, then took the four best that were close to home geographically. I felt Alabama was the best situation for me, and I wanted to sign early so I could concentrate on school and my senior season."

He said Alabama recruited him as a three-player (small forward), "but I can play the two (shooting guard) or the four (power forward)," he said. "I handle the ball pretty well."

Brock is a triple-jumper for the track team, and had a jump of 43 feet last season.

Alabama is still involved with several outstanding prospects, and three of the Crimson Tide's top remaining priorities are home-grown talents, Kennedy Winston from Blount High School, in Prichard; Chuck Davis from Southside High School in Selma, and Aliceville native Rodney Bias from Shelton State Community College.

Last year at Blount, Winston averaged an impressive 25 points and eight rebounds per game while leading the Leopards to the class 5A state championship. He is a 6-7 small forward with impressive offensive skills. He has good range on his outside jumper and is a solid ball handler. Blessed with outstanding athletic ability, he is an explosive player who runs the floor well. He also excels on the defensive end of the floor. Winston has narrowed his choices down to Alabama, Auburn, and California. Indeed, there have been published reports that Winston has committed to Cal, but most consider that to be a very weak commitment.

Chuck Davis is a player whose stock has risen steadily since his sophomore season. Last year at Southside, Davis averaged 25 points, 11 rebounds, and eight blocked shots per game. He is a long, lanky player who shoots well from the outside and has some moves in the post. On defense he is an intimidating shot-blocker and excellent rebounder. A good student, he carries a 3.7 GPA and is fully qualified. Alabama, Auburn, LSU, and UAB are the schools he is considering.

Last year as one of the top-rated junior college forward prospects, Rodney Bias signed with Alabama. However, he did not complete his requirements for graduation from junior college. He is continuing his

studies at Shelton State in Tuscaloosa and is expected to gain his eligibility. Bias is a 6-9 true post player who averaged 20 points and 18 rebounds per game and earned junior college All-America honors last season. This year his recruitment will be open, but Alabama is expected to be the leader.

Outside of Alabama one of the Tide's top targets is Tennessee big man Julian Terrell. Terrell is a 6-9 power forward from Ezell-Harding High School in Nashville, Tennessee. Last year he averaged 17 points, 13 rebounds, and five blocked shots per contest. During the summer he continued his impressive play and earned scholarship offers from Alabama, Kentucky, Ohio State, Tennessee, and Vanderbilt. He is a highly skilled post player with soft hands, and a strong low post game. In September he officially visited The Capstone and named Bama along with Vanderbilt as the leaders for his signature on signing day.

Most of the nation's prospects have begun to narrow their list to the schools that they are most seriously considering. A few of the recruits who had listed Alabama earlier in the year have now eliminated the Tide.

Chris Ellis, a 6-8 power forward from Marietta, Georgia, committed to Wake Forest in September. Previously he had listed his favorites as Alabama, Georgia, Clemson, Wake Forest, and Boston College.

Rashad Anderson, a 6-5 shooting guard from Kathleen High School in Tallahassee, Florida, has been announced as committed to Connecticut, which was considered the leader for his services. However, there is also a report that he is not committed. If he doesn't end up at Connecticut, Florida is thought to be his most likely destination, but Alabama, Florida State, Kentucky, Miami, South Florida and Tennessee are also pursuing.

Other prospects that the Tide is no longer involved with: Wayne Arnold, a 6-3 shooting guard from Berkmar High School in Georgia, committed to the University of Georgia; Ike Diogu, a 6-8 power forward from Texas, is leaning to Arizona State over Seton Hall; Jason Forte, 6-4 shooting guard from Bay Springs, Mississippi, committed to Boston College; Justin "Boomer" Herndon, 6-10 center from Nashville, committed to Tennessee; Aliou Kane, 6-11 center, from Virginia, has narrowed his list to SMU, North Carolina, and Minnesota; and Theodis Tarver, 6-9 center from Carroll High School in Louisiana, committed to Georgia Tech.

A Look At Out-Of-State Big Men

by James Edwards

Alabama has expanded its traditional recruiting base

One of the most-asked questions regarding recruiting is why a prospect does or does not choose a certain school. If there was just one answer, of course, all the top prospects would sign at just one school. However, every prospect chooses his school for his own reason or reasons.

The most common reason a player chooses a school is for the chance of early playing time. However, there are things such as tradition, facilities, coaches, likelihood of playing on television and in bowl games, and academics that are in the selection equation. And though geography has always been a factor, since the September 11 terrorist attack on our nation it has likely been even more important.

Alabama will always get a large number of its football players from within the state. However, the very best Crimson Tide teams have always had good players from outside Alabama, too.

Ordinarily our reports on out-of-state players have concentrated on those in the Southeast. However, the recruiting territory for Alabama under Coach Dennis Franchione has expanded, and we have found Crimson Tide prospects from the Atlantic to the Pacific. It is not a surprise that Bama recruiters appear to be active in the state of Texas since this coaching staff came to Alabama last winter from TCU.

Of more importance than where the players come from is the kind of ability they have. Almost every good football team is going to have quality and quantity in the offensive and defensive lines, at linebacker, and at tight end. These big men are sometimes hard to find, and it is frequently necessary to have a wider recruiting circle to land enough of them.

Here in alphabetical order by state are some of those big men thought to be in the Alabama recruiting picture:

CALIFORNIA

Fred Matua, 6-3, 290, 4.8 (time in 40-yard dash) defensive tackle from Banning High School in Wilmington, is considered by some to be the best defensive tackle in the nation. He dominates offensive guards and centers. He recorded 52 tackles, 20 tackles for loss, 12 sacks, four caused fumbles, four



Sam Harmon

fumble recoveries, and two interceptions as a junior. He benches 425, has a 3.8 grade point average, and an 880 SAT. He made all-state as a junior. He is a national recruit who is being courted by Nebraska, Notre Dame, Miami, UCLA, USC, Alabama, Florida, and Ohio State.

FLORIDA

James "Buster" Davis, 5-10, 220, 4.5 linebacker from Mainland High School in Daytona Beach, doesn't let his lack of height keep him from being one of the nation's top linebacker prospects. He made over 150 tackles as a junior with 25 resulting in losses. He is a defensive playmaker who also sees time at fullback. He made all-state as a junior. He is leaning to Florida State over Nebraska, Florida, Georgia Tech, Tennessee, Alabama, Ohio State, Notre Dame, and Penn State.

Elijah Dukes, 6-3, 225, 4.44 outside linebacker from Hillsborough High School in Tampa, is among the nation's best two sport athletes. He blisters the grass on his way to make tackles, but he also blankets centerfield for one of the best high school baseball programs in the country. He is a power hitting centerfielder who will most likely go in the first two rounds of the baseball draft. He is considering colleges which have standout football and baseball programs—Miami, Florida State, Alabama, Mississippi State, Georgia, and Tennessee.

Brian Johnson, 6-5, 295, 5.0 offensive tackle from Godby High School in Tallahassee, is a second team all-state selection who has the quickness, strength, speed, and technique to excel. His quickness and speed also make him a candidate to move to guard. He is al-



Richard Freeman

ready qualified with a 2.5 GPA and an 830 SAT. Schools in contention for his services include Florida State, Michigan, North Carolina State, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina, Arkansas, and East Carolina.

Ramon McCullough, 6-2, 290, 4.9 nose-guard/defensive tackle from Mainland High School in Daytona Beach, is a true run stopper in the middle. He possesses great strength, and yet his speed to the outside is impressive. Michigan State, Alabama, Auburn, Clemson, Iowa, Central Florida, and South Florida are vying for his signature.

GEORGIA

Kedrick Golston, 6-4, 285, 4.9 defensive tackle from Sandy Creek High School in Tyrone, is the Peach State's number one player and the South's top defensive tackle prospect. He had over 100 tackles as a junior despite constant double teaming. He made all-state as a junior. Georgia and Florida State lead the likes of Georgia Tech, Tennessee, Alabama, Auburn, Clemson, Florida, and LSU.

Julian Jenkins, 6-5, 230, 4.7 defensive end from Woodward Academy School in College Park, racked up 75 tackles, 15 tackles for loss, and seven sacks as a junior. He rushes the passer with authority, plus he can contain the outside against the run. He is a standout in basketball (12 points, 10 rebounds) and track. He has a 3.65 GPA. Stanford, Michigan, Penn State, Notre Dame, Northwestern, Georgia Tech, and Alabama are under consideration.

Aaron Scraton, 6-6, 235, 4.8 defensive end from Buford High School, was selected hon-



LaRon Harris

orable mention all-state as a junior after producing over 150 tackles and seven sacks. He has a 3.6 GPA and 1200 SAT. He is getting looks from Clemson, Alabama, Auburn, Georgia Tech, Georgia, and South Carolina.

John Williams, 6-3, 270, 4.8 defensive tackle/offensive guard from Douglass High School in Atlanta, has a low center of gravity that benefits him as a run stopper or a drive blocker. He camped at Georgia and he is already qualified. His school has produced numerous college players over the years. Tennessee, Notre Dame, Florida, Georgia, Georgia Tech, Alabama, Michigan, Ohio State, Duke, and Central Florida are pursuing.

LOUISIANA

Rufus Alexander, 6-1, 205, 4.65 linebacker from Christian Life High School in Baton Rouge, is a little-publicized linebacker who has impressed college coaches with his athleticism. He had to sit out the first four games of the season the past two years due to a transfer rule. He still posted numerous tackles as a junior and he displayed a knack for being a smart pass defender. He has a 31-inch vertical jump and has camped at LSU and Alabama. He is strongly considering those two plus Florida, Tennessee, and Texas.

Cameron Vaughn, 6-3, 225, 4.5 linebacker from Shaw High School in Marrero, is considered by some to be the best defensive prospect in Louisiana. He is cut from the same cloth as present LSU linebackers, Bradie James and Treverence Faulk. He had in excess of 100 tackles as a junior. He ranks among the elite linebackers in the South, as evidenced by the schools on his list—LSU, Alabama, Auburn, Florida, Michigan, Colorado, Texas, and Tulane.

OKLAHOMA

Sean Harmon, 6-5, 250, 4.7 defensive end

from Santa Fe High School in Edmond, finished his junior year with 58 tackles, seven sacks, six tackles for loss, eight batted passes, and three fumble recoveries. He is also a dominating basketball player who averaged 13 points and 11 rebounds per game last season. He lists Tennessee, LSU, Illinois, Texas A&M, Oklahoma, and Alabama.

Curtis Justus, 6-7, 215, 4.56 tight end from Perry High School, is among the nation's best tight end prospects and is certainly one of the fastest. He presents a major matchup problem for any linebacker and his height and speed make it extremely tough on safeties. He caught 56 passes for 810 yards and six touchdowns as a junior. Through six games this year he has snagged 36 passes for 590 yards and six touchdowns. That is an average of 16.38 yards per catch. He has a 32-inch vertical jump. He also plays defense where he recorded 12 sacks and one interception (returned 75 yards for a touchdown). He benches 300, has a 4.0 GPA, and scored 20 on the ACT. He favors Oklahoma, Miami, Michigan, Stanford, UCLA, Texas, Texas A&M, Arizona State, Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, and Oklahoma State.

Bryan Pickryl, 6-6, 235, 4.5 defensive end from Jenks High School, is considered by some to be the state's top player. He had 100 tackles as a junior. He has camped at UCLA, Texas, and Missouri. He is strong and he should be qualified. He is considering Texas, UCLA, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, LSU, and Alabama.

Lawrence Pinson, 6-2, 245, 4.6 middle linebacker from Jenks High School, has great range. He transferred to Jenks from Eagan, Minnesota. His junior year he finished with 149 tackles (70 solo), 16 tackles for loss, and two fumble recoveries. He made all-state his final two seasons in Minnesota. He has a 3.8 GPA. He is a soft commitment to Oklahoma, but he is considering visits to LSU, Missouri, Notre Dame, Texas A&M, Minnesota, and Alabama.

TENNESSEE

Richard Freeman, 6-4, 230, 4.84 defensive end from Brentwood High School, hails from an athletic family (sister, Florida basketball; father, Vanderbilt basketball; and uncle, Greg Freeman, Alabama basketball). He had 71 tackles as a junior and through six games as a senior he has 42 tackles, seven sacks, five quarterback pressures, and three caused fumbles. He has a 33-inch vertical jump and has camped at Auburn. He benches 290 and squats 450. He has a 3.75 GPA and a 25 ACT. He has offers from Alabama and Vanderbilt. Auburn, Ole Miss, Memphis, Louisville, and MTSU are also pursuing.

Laron Harris, 6-3, 305, 4.85 defensive tackle from Kingsbury High School in Memphis, made all-region and honorable mention all-state as a junior after racking up 75 tackles. He has camped at Ole Miss, Auburn, and Memphis. He has good strength and he will



Grant Dickey

qualify. He is showing interest in Auburn, Ole Miss, Alabama, Memphis, and Arkansas.

Willie Henderson, 6-7, 275, 4.85 offensive tackle from Ridgeway High School in Memphis, is a left tackle who powered his way to 40 pancake blocks as a junior. He has a long frame with long arms and he sets high goals for himself as a player. He plays defense in a substitute role and managed 25 tackles. He has a 30-inch vertical jump and has camped at Tennessee and Memphis. He was selected honorable mention all-state last year. He benches 315 and squats 520. He has a 2.5 GPA and a 16 ACT. He is interested in Tennessee, Florida, Memphis, Alabama, and LSU.

David Ligon, 6-5, 275, 4.9 defensive end from Christian Brothers High School in Memphis, is a major college prospect on both sides of the ball, but his heart lies on defense. As a junior he had 64 tackles and eight sacks. His father, David Ligon (defensive coordinator at Christian Brothers), played one season at Tennessee before transferring to Memphis. He also played tight end on offense as a junior and is seeing duty at offensive tackle as a senior. He has camped at Tennessee, Florida, Notre Dame, and Memphis. Those four along with Auburn, Alabama, Georgia Tech, Vanderbilt, and Duke have the inside track.

TEXAS

Justin Blalock, 6-3, 305, 5.30 offensive guard from East High School in Plano, is considered to be the best offensive guard in the Lone Star State. He has incredible strength and excellent technique. He graded 92 per cent blocking efficiency as a junior with a whopping 129 pancakes. He is a three-year starter who has camped at Texas and Michigan. He has a 21-inch vertical jump, benches 400, and squats 500. He has over 45 offers but the ones making the cut

include Texas, Oklahoma, Florida, Michigan, and Alabama.

Marvin Byrdsong, 6-2, 222, 4.5 linebacker from Longview High School, played in just four games as a junior before breaking his hand, but he put on a show during that time. He was credited with 64 tackles (average: 16 per game) his junior year. He runs a sparkling 10.7 hundred meters. He has offers from Texas, Texas A&M, Oklahoma, Florida State, LSU, Alabama, Mississippi State, UCLA, and USC. There is still some academic work to achieve before he is announced qualified.

Larry Dibbles, 6-3, 255, 4.75 defensive tackle from Lancaster High School, has lined up at inside linebacker, noseguard, defensive tackle, and defensive end. He was an All-Southwest Texas and all-district selection his junior year after producing close to 100 tackles. He is also the district champion in the shop put with a toss of 60-6. He benches 400 and squats near 600. He can qualify and is considering Texas, Oklahoma, Notre Dame, LSU, Texas A&M, Florida State, Alabama, and UCLA.

Grant Dickey, 6-4, 305, 5.2 offensive guard from Lee High School in Tyler, Texas, is committed to Alabama. A first team Super All-Texas selection, he graded over 80 per cent



Garnet Smith

blocking efficiency as a junior. He has displayed a 4.7 shuttle speed time. He has camped at Texas, Texas A&M, and Baylor. He benches 325 and squats 425 despite having arthroscopic knee surgery.

Quinton Echols, 6-3, 290, 4.93 defensive



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tackle from Wyatt High School in Ft. Worth, is a three-time all-district player whose stock has grown with every game. He had 76 tackles, 12 tackles for loss, 11 sacks, four caused fumbles, two fumble recoveries, and two interceptions as a junior. He also excels in the shot put where he tosses it an impressive 62-6. He camped at Texas, has a 3.1 GPA, and scored 910 on the SAT. He is hearing from Miami, Georgia Tech, Washington, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Colorado, and Alabama.

Abner Estrada, 6-3, 290, 5.0 offensive guard from Turner High School in Carrollton, is another athletic offensive interior lineman who shows enough speed and quickness to be a guard in college. Additionally, he could develop into a center. He is a two-time all-conference selection who is also the region champion in the discus. He has good strength and he will be a qualifier. He is getting feelers from Purdue, Miami, Alabama, Colorado State, and New Mexico.

Garnet Smith, 6-2, 218, 4.55 linebacker from Lamar High School in Arlington, is fast,

intelligent, intense, hard-hitting, athletic, and a leader. He posted 91 tackles, seven sacks, and two interceptions as a junior. He was selected third team all-state and second team preseason all-state. He is looking at Texas, Oklahoma, Texas A&M, Tennessee, Miami, Alabama, and Florida. He made commitments to both Oklahoma and Texas, but has since backed off to look at the overall picture. He says that Tennessee, Alabama, Miami, and Florida will get official visits.

Tony Ugoh, 6-6, 286, 5.0 offensive tackle from Westfield High School in Spring, is a three-year starter who has great size, terrific agility, and very good footwork. He graded over 80 per cent blocking efficiency his junior year. He credits his footwork to his hard work on the discus. He threw the discus 178-8 to become the regional champion. He has a 27-inch vertical jump. He has camped at Alabama, Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. He benches 375 and squats 415. He has a 3.4 GPA and scored 970 on the SAT. His parents are originally from Nigeria. He is looking at Oklahoma, Alabama, Texas, Florida, Missouri, USC, UCLA, and Texas A&M.

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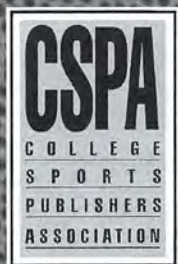
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2001-2002 Alabama Winter Sports Schedules

Men's Basketball

Date	Opponent	CST
Nov. 1	Athletes In Action (Exh.)	7:00
Nov. 8	EA Sports (Exh.)	7:00
	Guardians Classic	
Nov. 13	Mississippi Valley St	TBA
Nov. 14	Samford or Loyola Marym'nt	TBA
Nov. 20	Semifinals @ Kansas City	TBA
Nov. 21	Finals @ Kansas City	TBA
Nov. 26	Utah (ESPN2)	6:00
Nov. 29	McNeese State	7:00
Dec. 3	Chattanooga (Fox)	7:00
	John Wooden Classic @ Anaheim, Calif.	
Dec. 8	UCLA @ (Fox)	6:00
Dec. 14	Jacksonville State	7:00
	Jimmy V Classic @ Meadowlands, N.J.	
Dec. 18	Temple (ESPN)	6:00
Dec. 21	Alabama A&M	7:00
	Sugar Bowl Classic @ New Orleans	
Dec. 27	Notre Dame (Fox)	7:00
Dec. 31	Florida A&M	TBA
Jan. 2	Bethune-Cookman	7:00
Jan. 5	LSU	TBA
Jan. 9	Vanderbilt	7:00
Jan. 12	@ Auburn	1:00
Jan. 16	@ Georgia (J-P)	7:00
Jan. 19	Mississippi State	TBA
Jan. 26	@ Kentucky (ESPN)	7:00
Jan. 30	Arkansas	TBA
Feb. 2	@ LSU	TBA
Feb. 6	Ole Miss	7:00
Feb. 9	@ Mississippi State	TBA
Feb. 13	@ South Carolina	7:00
Feb. 16	Tennessee	TBA
Feb. 20	@ Arkansas	7:00
Feb. 23	Florida	TBA
Feb. 27	Auburn	7:00
Mar. 3	@ Ole Miss (CBS)	1:00
Mar. 7-10	SEC Tournament @ Atlanta	

Men's Swimming

Date/	Opponent	Time (CT)/
UA Score	Opp. Score	
Oct. 5	Bama Instrasquad	5:00
Oct. 6	Bama Alumni	12:00
Oct. 26-27	SEC West @ Fayetteville	All Day
Nov. 2-3	LSU	3:00
Nov. 16-17	@ Auburn	5:00
Nov. 27-	World Cup	All Day
Nov. 28	@ Long Island, N.Y.	
Nov. 30-	Georgia Invitational	All Day
Dec. 1		
Jan. 4	Georgia	1:00
Jan. 12	Georgia Tech	12:00
Jan. 25	@ Florida State	2:00
Jan. 26	@ Florida	1:00
Feb. 2	@ South Carolina	2:00
Feb. 20-23	SEC Championships @ Fayetteville	All Day
Mar. 9	Last Chance @ Auburn	TBA
Mar. 19-	USS National Championships	
Mar. 23	@ TBA	All Day
Mar. 28-	NCAA Championships	
Mar. 30	@ Athens, Ga.	All Day

Women's Basketball

Date	Opponent	CST
Nov. 5	Basketball Travelers (Exh.)	7:00
Nov. 11	Sports International (Exh.)	4:00
Nov. 16	Samford	7:00
Nov. 20	Troy State	7:00
	Pepperdine Thanksgiving Classic @ Malibu, Calif.	
Nov. 23	Louisville	9:00
Nov. 24	Pepperdine or William & Mary	TBA
Nov. 27	@ Birmingham-Southern	TBA
Dec. 2	@ Providence	TBA
Dec. 5	@ Alabama State	TBA
Dec. 9	South Alabama	2:00
Dec. 18	@ Jacksonville State	7:00
Dec. 21-	@ Cancun, Mexico	
Dec. 22	Basketball Tournament (SMU, Eastern Michigan, Maryland)	TBA
	Villanova Tournament	
Dec. 29	Massachusetts	TBA
Dec. 30	Villanova or Rider	TBA
Jan. 6	Kentucky	2:00
Jan. 10	@ Arkansas	7:00
Jan. 13	@ Florida	TBA
Jan. 17	Vanderbilt	7:00
Jan. 20	@ Tennessee	TBA
Jan. 24	Auburn	7:00
Jan. 27	@ Kentucky	1:00
Feb. 3	Arkansas (Fox)	2:00
Feb. 7	Mississippi State	7:00
Feb. 10	@ Auburn	2:00
Feb. 14	@ South Carolina	TBA
Feb. 17	Ole Miss	2:00
Feb. 21	@ Georgia	TBA
Feb. 24	LSU	2:00
Feb. 28-	SEC Tournament @ Nashville	TBA
Mar. 3	Gaylord Entertainment Center	

Women's Swimming

Date/	Opponent	Time (CT)/
UA Score	Opp. Score	
Oct. 5	Bama Instrasquad	5:00
Oct. 6	Bama Alumni	12:00
Oct. 26-27	SEC West @ Fayetteville	All Day
Nov. 2-3	LSU	3:00
Nov. 16-17	@ Auburn	5:00
Nov. 27-	World Cup	All Day
Nov. 28	@ Long Island, N.Y.	
Nov. 30-	Georgia Invitational	All Day
Dec. 1		
Jan. 4	Georgia	1:00
Jan. 12	Georgia Tech	12:00
Jan. 25	@ Florida State	2:00
Jan. 26	@ Florida	1:00
Feb. 2	@ South Carolina	2:00
Feb. 20-23	SEC Championships @ Fayetteville	All Day
Mar. 2	Last Chance @ Auburn	TBA
Mar. 19-	USS National Championships	
Mar. 23	@ TBA	All Day
Mar. 21-	NCAA Championships	
Mar. 23	@ Austin, Texas	All Day

Gymnastics

Date	Opponent	Time (CST)
Jan. 11	Super Six Challenge @ Gainesville, Florida (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, LSU, Penn State, UCLA)	6:00
Jan. 18	Georgia	7:00
Jan. 26	Denver	7:00
Feb. 2	Nebraska	7:00
Feb. 8	@ LSU	7:00
Feb. 10	Auburn @ Birmingham	2:00
Feb. 15	@ Georgia	6:30
Feb. 22	Florida	7:00
March 1	@ Auburn	7:00
March 8	@ Kentucky	TBA
March 16	UCLA	7:00
March 23	SEC Championships @ Birmingham	7:00
April 6	NCAA Region IV (Site TBA)	TBA
April 18-	NCAA Championships @ Coleman Coliseum	TBA
April 20		

Men's Indoor Track

Date	Event
Jan. 18	SEC Challenge @ Fayetteville
Jan. 25-26	Rocky Mountain Cup @ Colorado Springs, Colo.
Feb. 1-2	Meyo Invitational @ South Bend, Ind.
Feb. 10	@ Florida Invitational
Feb. 10	@ Iowa State Invitational
Feb. 22-24	SEC Championships @ Fayetteville
March 1-2	LSU Last Ditch @ Baton Rouge
March 8-10	NCAA Championships @ Fayetteville

Women's Indoor Track

Date	Event
Jan. 19	SEC Quad @ Fayetteville
Jan. 226	Minnesota Invitational @ Minneapolis
Feb. 2	Rod McCravy Invitational @ Lexington
Feb. 10	@ Florida Invitational
Feb. 10	@ Iowa State Invitational
Feb. 22-24	SEC Championships @ Fayetteville
March 1-2	USATF - TBA
March 1-2	Iowa State Last Chance @ Ames, Iowa
March 8-10	NCAA Championships @ Fayetteville

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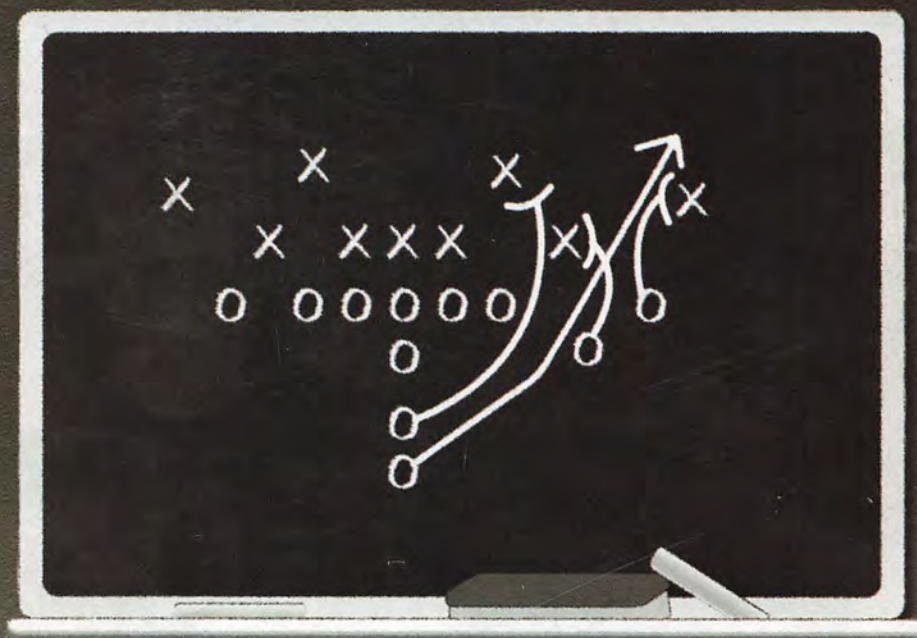
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